(c) if so, the details of progress/ achievements in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) Exploration for coal reserves in the country is carried out in two stages—'Regional Exploration' and 'Detailed Exploration'.

Geological Survey of India (GSI) undertakes regional exploration for locating potential coal bearing areas in the country. Detailed exploration for the purpose of mine planning is carried out by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) for the command areas of Coal India Limited (CIL). Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) also undertakes detailed exploration for its command areas.

Details of reserves estimated by the GSI and detailed exploration carried out by CMPDIL and SCCL during the Eighth Five Year Plan period are as under:

(Figures in million tonnes)

State	Regionally explored	Coalfields	Reserves proved/ indicated through detailed exploration
West Bengal	1997-15	Raniganj	1597
		Barjory	43
Bihar	1558.70	Jharia	1047
		East Bokaro	1738
		West Bokaro	513
		North Karanpura	1332
		South Karanpura	653
		Hutar	81
		Rajmahal	368
Madhya Pradesh	2464.86	Pathekhera	36
		Pench Kanhan	220
		Sohagpur	270
		Bisrampur	214
		Korba	422
		Umaria	79
		Mand-Raigarh	192
		Johilla	11
		Lakhanpur	93
		Hasdeo-Arand	681
		Sendurgarh	154
		Sonhat	35
		Singrauli	651
Orissa	2237.08	Talcher	3209
Andhra Pradesh	63.73	Godavari Valley Coalfield	580
Maharashtra		Wardha Valley	883
		Bander	69
		Nand	42
		Kamptee	112
Assam		Makum	146
Meghalaya		West Darangari	29

Introduction of New System of Marketing Prices on Packaged Commodities

*139. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to introduce a new system of marketing prices on packaged commodities; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The packaged Commodities Rules, 1977 require that retail sale price of a commodity sold in packaged form be printed thereon in the following format: "Maximum or Max. retail price..... inclusive of all taxes or in the form MRP Rs.... incl., of all taxes." The MRP is the maximum price at which the package can be sold to the consumer. The actual sale price could be less than the MRP due to various factors. The Government is however considering the issue in consultation with concerned groups and organisations with a view to serve better the interests of consumers.

नई जातियों और क्षेत्रों को अनुसूचित जनजातीय घोषित किया जाना

*140. श्री महेश्वर सिंह: क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) सरकार के पास नई जातियों तथा क्षेत्रों को अनुसूचित जनजातीय घोषित करने संबंधी कितने-कितने [illegible]

(ख) क्या इन मामलों को निपटाने के लिए गठित समिति ने अपना प्रतिवेदन अब प्रस्तुत कर दिया है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो कब और उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ङ) क्या प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत किए जाने के संबंध में उक्त समिति के लिए कोई तिथि निर्धारित कर दी गई है?

कल्याण मंत्री (श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया): (क) अनुसूचित जनजातियों की सूचियों में शामिल करने के लिए पिछले अनेक वर्षों में प्राप्त लगभग 700 दावे लम्बित हैं। जहां तक अनुसूचित क्षेत्रों के रूप में क्षेत्रों की घोषणा का संबंध है, इस बारे में हिमाचल प्रदेश का ट्रांस-गिरी (गिरिपार) क्षेत्र का केवल एक मामला है।

(ख) से (ङ) अनुसूचित जाति तथा अनुसूचित जनजाति की सूचियों के संशोधन से संबंधित विभिन्न मुद्दों की जांच के लिए गठित सलाहकार समिति अपना कार्य पूर्ण नहीं कर सकी और यह अब अस्तित्व में नहीं है।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Deferring the Implementation of New PDS

868. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have deferred the implementation of the revised Public Distribution System till June, 1997;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Centre has already earmarked over 60 lakh tonnes of foodgrains for the purposes of revised Public Distribution System; and

(d) total number of people to the benefited and the expenditure to be incurred by Government if the said revised Public Distribution System is implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a), (b) and (d) No, Sir. A Statement on the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) has been made in the Rajya Sabha on 24.2.1997 and copies of the detailed guidelines issued in this regard have also been laid on the table of the House. As per the guidelines, the state Governments/UT Administrations are required to identify the beneficiaries who live Below the Poverty Line, based on the provisional estimates arrived at by the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 adopting the methodology of "Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor" constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Late Prof. Lakdawala. According to this estimate, the number of Below Poverty Line population works out to 32.03 crores, which forms 35.97% of the total population in the country.

Based on the guidelines, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been asked to identify the beneficiaries Below Poverty Line, issue special ration cards to them and make all arrangements for delivery of foodgrains to the beneficiaries in a satisfactory and transparent manner. As soon as a State/UT completes this exercise, it can start deriving the benefits under the targeted PDS. The Scheme of Targeted PDS will, however, become effective throughout the country from 1st June, 1997.

(c) It is estimated that about 180 lakh tonnes of foodgrains will be issued to States/UTs under the revised/Targeted Public Distribution System.

Objections of Government of Kerala to New Public Distribution System

869. SHRI M.A. BABY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has any reservation on the proposed PDS scheme for the people below poverty line;

(b) if so, the main objections; and

(c) the response of the Central Government to the same?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES,